

Emergency Awards

You may receive an Emergency Award as an advance for your loss of income or support or medical expenses OR if you are a domestic violence or sexual assault victim who needs to move.

An Emergency Award may also be available for funeral and/or burial expenses. Emergency Awards are processed within 30 days.

Filing assistance

Victim/Witness Assistance Centers in every county have trained staff to assist victims in applying for compensation under VCP.

The law allows VCP to pay up to \$500 for an attorney to assist you in the application process. Attorney fees are not subtracted from your payment. The law prohibits attorneys from charging, demanding, receiving, or collecting any amount for their services, except those paid by VCP.

More information

VCP Customer Services Unit

1-800-777-9229

**Hearing impaired, please call
the California Relay Service at**

1-800-735-2929

All Languages Accommodated
www.boc.ca.gov

The district attorney's office or law enforcement in your county (see the white *Government Pages* of your local telephone directory) may refer you to the nearest Victim/Witness Assistance Center

or

Victims of Crime Resource Center
1-800-VICTIMS (1-800-842-8467)

Board Members

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Victim Compensation
& Government Claims Board



General Information Victim Compensation Program



Note: This brochure is intended to provide general information *only*. It does not include all of the requirements of the Victim Compensation Program. **Revised January 2002**



Dear Californians:

No one deserves to suffer from the physical, emotional, and financial costs of being a crime victim.

If you have been a victim of a crime, the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board and its network of victim advocates and providers throughout the state can help you recover financially. This program is funded from fines and fees paid by offenders, not California taxpayers.

Please use this brochure to learn about this important program or contact the Board at 1-800-777-9229 for more information.

Sincerely,


GRAY DAVIS
Governor of California

Who is eligible?

A person who suffers an injury or the threat of injury as a result of a crime in California.

A California resident who suffers an injury or the threat of injury as a result of a crime or terrorism wherever it takes place.

Residents of the United States who are:

Parents, siblings, spouses, children, grandparents, grandchildren of persons who suffer an injury or are threatened with injury during a crime or die as a result of a crime may be eligible.

Another family member of the victim, including the victim's fiancé(e), if he or she witnessed the crime.

A person living in the victim's household at the time of the crime or who had lived with the victim for at least two years in a relationship similar to a spouse, child, parent, or sibling of the victim.

Someone who becomes the primary caretaker of a minor victim after the crime.

Any of these individuals who are not residents of the United States may be eligible for mental health counseling.

What losses may be paid?

- ☐ Medical/dental expenses for the victim
- ☐ Mental health treatment or counseling
- ☐ Wage or income loss
- ☐ Financial support loss for dependents of a deceased or disabled victim
- ☐ Funeral and/or burial expenses
- ☐ Job retraining for a disabled victim
- ☐ Home or vehicle renovation or retrofitting for a permanently disabled person
- ☐ Home security installation or improvements
- ☐ Moving/relocation expenses

- ☐ Crime-scene cleanup if a homicide happened in a residence

The Victim Compensation Program (VCP) may pay bills only for expenses due to the crime and that are not covered by insurance or other sources. VCP does not pay for lost, damaged, or stolen property or for pain and suffering. The maximum amount that can be paid may vary, and certain restrictions apply. Contact VCP staff for information on covered services and maximum reimbursement rates.

General requirements

You must cooperate reasonably with the police and court officials to arrest and prosecute the offender.

You must cooperate with VCP or its representative(s) to verify your application.

You cannot have contributed to nor participated in the crime.

You first must submit your expenses to your insurance company, HMO, or other insurance plan. VCP will pay only expenses that cannot be covered by some other source of funding.

How do I apply?

You must file a VCP application within one year of the crime (or three years, if good cause for the delay can be shown).

For a victim who was under age 18 on the date of the crime, an application must be filed before the victim's 19th birthday (or 21st birthday, if good cause for the delay can be shown).

How long will it take?

Once VCP receives your application, it may take 90 days or more for you to receive an award. Processing time may be reduced significantly if all appropriate reports, bills, or receipts are attached.